(c) The requirement of DAP varies from year to year and ranges between 40—45 lakh tonnes per annum.

(d) In view of the paucity of adequate good quality reserve of rock phosphate in the country and in view of the paucity of elemental sulphur, the gap in the requirement of DAP has to be met through imports.

VAM Organic Chemicals Limited

2075. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of chemicals and chemicals products used by the Vam Organic Chemicals Limited situated at Bhartiya Gram, Gajrola, Moradabad district in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that the chemicals used are hazardous and injurious to health; and

(c) if so, what precautions have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The major chemicals being used by M/s. Vam Organics & Chemicals Ltd. in their products are Ammonia, Formaldehyde, Dibutyl Maleate, Dibutyl Puhthalate and Vinyl ester of Vesalic Acid;

(b) The Chemicals are not listed as hazardous chemicals in the notification dated 25-7-1991 issued by Deptt. of Industrial Development.

(c) Does not arise.

Handing over of Fertiliser Plants to Private Sector

2076. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a policy decision to hand over some fertiliser plants to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of expenditure so far incurred on these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Prices of Life-Saving Drugs

2077. SHRI GURDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug companies are charging high prices for life-saving drugs and the prices have increased enormously during the past one year;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted into this matter;

(c) if so, the names of such companies and the products for which the prices have been raised exorbitantly; and

(d) what action has been taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Price increases in cases of formulations under price control are regulated through the provisions of the DPCO '87 and violations, if any, as and when noticed are dealt with under the said provisions.

Prices of Chloramphenicol

2078. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAJIN:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of Chloramphenicol salts on which formulation prices are based at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that the price of L-Base has come down from $ 45 per kg to $ 25 per kg; and

(c) what steps have been taken to reduce the prices of Chloramphenicol salts formulations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Notified price of Chloramphenicol is taken into consideration for price fixation/revision of Chloramphenicol based formulations.

(b) Recently, it has come to the notice of the Government that c.i.f. price of L-Base has come down.

(c) Necessary steps are being taken in this respect.